

Message Text

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUCHAREST 7372

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, RO, BU
SUBJ: JOINT ROMANIAN-BULGARIAN PROJECT ON DANUBE
INAUGURATED

1. AMID MUCH POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE, CEAUSESCU AND ZHIVKOV
DECEMBER 10 INAUGURATED CONSTRUCTION OF JOINT ROMANIAN-
BULGARIAN HEAVY MACHINE EQUIPMENT PLANT AT GIURGIU AND
RUSE, ON OPPOSITE SIDES OF DANUBE. HEAVY ROMANIAN MEDIA
COVERAGE AND SOMEWHAT EXAGGERATED CEREMONEY CONNECTED WITH
INAUGURAL SERVE ONCE AGAIN TO HIGHLIGHT ANOMOLY OF
APPARENT GOOD RELATIONS ENJOYED BY TWO LEADERS,
IN SPITE OF SOME RATHER FUNDAMENTAL POLICY DIFFERENCES
WHICH THEIR REMARKS DID NOTHING TO HIDE.

2. CEAUSESCU NEGLECTED TO MENTION THE SOVIETS AND
PROLETARIAN INTERNATIONALISM, BUT SPOKE OF BALKAN
COOPERATION AND ENUMERATED HIS WELL-KNOWN PRINCIPLES.
FOLLOWING DAY'S SCINTEIA COMMENTARY BY FOREIGN EDITOR
CAPLESCU CITED PRINCIPLES AND CALLED THEM "THE
IMMUTABLE BASE OF ROMANIAN RELATIONS WITH ALL
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SOCIALIST STATES."

3. ZHIVKOV, ON THE OTHER HAND, PRAISED "OUR SOVIET BROTHERS", SAID NOT ONE WORD ABOUT BALKAN COOPERATION AND DWELT ON IMPORTANCE OF "IDEOLOGICAL UNITY, SPIRITUAL CLLSENESS, COMMON AIMS AND THE MERGING OF WILLS." (COMMENT: SEVERAL WESTERN AMBASSADORS HAVE SPECULATED THAT BULGARIAN ENTHUSIASM FOR BILATERAL PROJECTS MAY DERIVE AS MUCH FROM DISLIKE OF BALKAN MULTILATERAL ONES, AS ANYTHING ALSE.) EVEN MORE POINTED AND OBJECTIONABLE TO ROMANIANS MUST HAVE BEEN ZHIVKOV'S REFERENCE TO HELSINKI AS AFFIRMING "INCONTESTABLY" THE "LENINIST PRINCIPLES OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE BETWEEN STATES WITH DIFFERENT SOCIAL ORDERS." PRIME AIM OF GOR'S HELSINKI POLICY IS THAT FINAL ACT APPLIES TO ALL STATES, REGARDLESS OF SOCIAL SYSTEM, THEREBY VITIATING BREZHNEV DOCTRINE, WHICH BULGARIAN LEADER PRACTICALLY REAFFIRMS IN HIS REMARKS.

4. COMMENT: ZHIVKOV'S REMARK THAT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CAPITALISM AND SOCIALISM IS REFLECTED IN PEACEFUL BORDERS BETWEEN ROMANIA AND BULGARIA AS OPPOSED TO "BARBED WIRE AND MINES" ELSEWHERE BRINGS TO MIND COMMENT MADE RECENTLY BY PCR SECRETARY CORNEL BURTICA TO AMBSSSADOR. BURTICA NOTED THAT RECENTLY CEAUSESCU HAD COMPLAINED TO SOVIETS ABOUT EXISTENCE OF A BARBED WIRE FRONTIER BETWEEN THEM. SOVIETS PROMPTLY RETORTED THAT GOR SHOULD NOT CONSIDER THIS A DISCRIMINATING ACT SINCE THEY HAD FENCES WITH ALL OF THEIR NEIGHBORS.

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